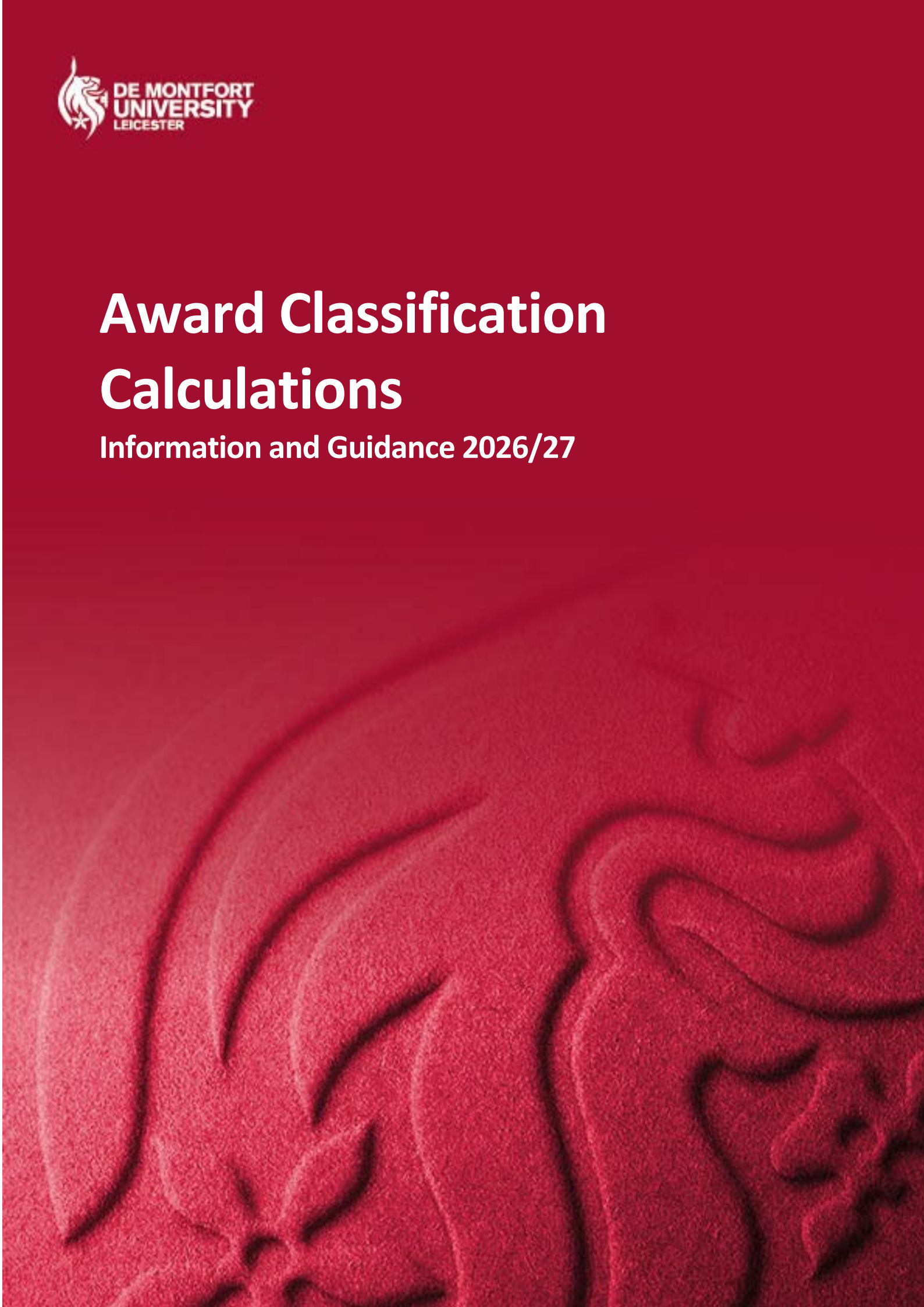
DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER

Award Classification Calculations

Information and Guidance 2026/27



Contents

1. Minimum credits needed to gain a university award – overview 2
2. Classification of awards – overview 2
3. Consideration band – overview 3
4. Example calculations 3
Master's degree 3
Postgraduate diploma (PgDip) 4
Postgraduate certificate (PgCert) 4
Integrated master's degree with 30-credit sandwich placement 5
Integrated master's degree 6
Honours degree with 30-credit sandwich placement 8
Honours degree 9
Honours degree – with compensation 10
Honours degree – direct entrant into level 6 11
Foundation degree (Fd) / Higher National Diploma (HND) 12
Higher National Certificate (HNC) 13
University Certificate of Professional Development (UCPD) 13

1. Minimum credits needed to gain a university award – overview

Award	Credits				
	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Master's degree			30	150	180
Postgraduate diploma (PgDip)			30	90	120
Postgraduate certificate (PgCert)				60	60
Integrated master's degree with sandwich placement	120	150	120	120	510
Integrated master's degree	120	120	120	120	480
Honours degree with 30 credit sandwich placement	120	150	120		390
Honours degree	120	120	120		360
Graduate diploma (GradDip)			120		120
Non-honours degree	120	120*	60*		300
Graduate certificate (GradCert)			60		60
Foundation degree (Fd)	120	120			240
Diploma of higher education (DipHE)	120	120			240
Higher National Diploma (HND)	120	120			240
Higher National Certificate (HNC)	120				120
Certificate of higher education (CertHE)	120				120
University Certificate of Professional Development (UCPD)	60 credits at levels 4, 5 or 6				60

* The total number of credits at level 5 and level 6 may vary for a non-honour's degree as long as a minimum of 60 credits are achieved at level 6; for example, students may achieve 60 credits at level 5 and 120 credits at level 6.

Note: level 3 module marks are excluded from classification calculations for integrated level 3 provision.

2. Classification of awards – overview

Classification band	Postgraduate awards	Integrated master's, Honours degree	Foundation degree, HNC/HND, UCPD
70% and above	Distinction	First class honours	Distinction
60-69%	Merit	Upper second (2:1)	Merit
50-59%	Pass	Lower second (2:2)	Pass
40-49%	Fail	Third class honours	Pass
Below 40%	Fail	Fail	Fail

3. Consideration band – overview

Classification	Classification band	Consideration band
First class honours	70% and above	68-69%
Upper second (2:1)	60-69%	58-59%
Lower second (2:2)	50-59%	48-49%

4. Example calculations

All calculations are based on units of 15 credits

Master's degree

Credits Level 7	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
30	X2	60%	Merit
30	X2	61%	Merit
30	X2	60%	Merit
30	X2	63%	Merit
60	X4	50%	Pass **capped after reassessment*
180	**12**	**688**	Overall average mark for classification calculation: 60 + 60 + 61 + 61 + 60 + 60 + 63 + 63 + 50 + 50 + 50 + 50 = 688 ÷ 12 = 57.3, rounded down to 57 (pass)

How the classification is calculated:

Which classification banding does…	Pass	Merit	Distinction
1) At least 120 credits sit in? or		X	
2) The overall average mark for classification sit in?	X		

Outcome:

Although the overall average mark for classification is at pass level, the student is awarded a **master's degree with merit** as the student has the requisite 120 credits in the merit band or above.

Postgraduate diploma (PgDip)

Credits Level 7	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
30	X2	68%	Merit
30	X2	80%	Distinction
30	X2	87%	Distinction
30	X2	84%	Distinction
120	**8**	**638**	Overall average mark for classification calculation: 68 + 68 + 80 + 80 + 87 + 87 + 84 + 84 = 638 ÷ 8 = 79.75 rounded up to 80% (distinction)

How the classification is calculated:

Which classification banding does…	Pass	Merit	Distinction
1) At least 90 credits sit in? or			X
2) The overall average mark for classification sit in?			X

Outcome:

The student has 90 credits in the distinction band and an overall average in the distinction band, so they are awarded a **postgraduate diploma with distinction**. Note that only one distinction criterion was required for distinction to be awarded.

Postgraduate certificate (PgCert)

Credits Level 7	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
30	X2	57%	Pass

Credits Level 7	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
30	X2	68%	Merit
120	**8**	**250**	Overall average mark for classification calculation: 57 + 57 + 68 + 68 = 250 ÷ 4 = 62.5, rounded up to 63 (merit)

How the classification is calculated:

Which classification banding does…	Pass	Merit	Distinction
1) At least 45 credits sit in? or	X		
2) The overall average mark for classification sit in?		X	

Outcome:

The student is awarded a **postgraduate certificate with merit** as the overall average mark for classification is at merit level.

Integrated master's degree with 30-credit sandwich placement

Credits	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
Level 4			
120	0	N/A	120 credits required at level 4 to gain an award. Module marks excluded from classification calculation.
Level 5			
30	X2	55%	Lower second (2:2)
30	X2	67%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	43%	Third class honours
30	X2	71%	First class honours
Level 6			
30	X2	63%	Upper second (2:1
30	Discounted	40%	Third class honours **capped after reassessment*
30	X2	73%	First class honours
30	X2	79%	First class honours
Level 6 – placement			
30	X2	62%	Upper second (2:1)

270	**16**	**1026**	
Level 7			
30	X2	73%	First class honours
30	X1 (discount 15 credits)	66%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	88%	First class honours
30	X2	70%	First class honours
120	**7**	**528**	
510			

How the classification is calculated:

Criteria	**Average mark for classification calculation**
1) Best 240 credits of the 270 studied at levels 5 and 6, single-weighted, and the:	Levels 5 and 6: 55 + 55 + 67 + 67 + 43 + 43 + 71 + 71 + 63 + 63 + 73 + 73 + 79 + 79 + 62 + 62 = 1026 ÷ 16 = 64.1, rounded down to 64 (upper second (2:1))
2) Best 105 credits of the 120 studied at Level 7, triple-weighted	Level 7: 73 + 73 + 66 + 88 + 88 + 70 + 70 = 528 ÷ 7 = 75.4, rounded down to 75 (first class honours)
Level 5 and 6 single-weighted plus level 7 triple-weighted	Overall: 64 + 75 + 75 + 75 = 289 ÷ 4 = 72.2 rounded down to 72 (first class honours)

Outcome:

The student is awarded a **first class integrated master's degree** (with placement) as the overall average mark for classification is 72%.

Integrated master's degree

Credits	**Counts towards classification**	**Module mark**	**Classification banding**
Level 4			
120	0	N/A	120 credits required at level 4 to gain an award. Module marks excluded from classification calculation.
Level 5			
30	X2	55%	Lower second (2:2)
30	X2	67%	Upper second (2:1)

30	X2	63%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	74%	First class honours
Level 6			
30	X1 (discount 15 credits)	40%	Third class honours **capped after reassessment*
30	X2	73%	First class honours
30	X2	64%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	55%	Lower second (2:2)
240	**15**	**942**	
Level 7			
30	X1 (discount 15 credits)	66%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	88%	First class honours
30	X2	68%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	81%	First class honours
120	**7**	**540**	
480			

How the classification is calculated:

Criteria	**Average mark for classification calculation**
1) Best 225 credits of the 240 studied at levels 5 and 6, single-weighted, and the:	Levels 5 and 6: 55 + 55 + 67 + 67 + 63 + 63 + 74 + 74 + 40 + 73 + 73 + 64 + 64 + 55 + 55 = 942 ÷ 15 = 62.8, rounded up to 63 (upper second (2:1))
2) Best 105 credits of the 120 studied at Level 7, triple-weighted	Level 7: 66 + 88 + 88 + 68 + 68 + 81 + 81 = 540 ÷ 7 = 77.1, rounded down to 77 (first class honours)
Level 5 and 6 single-weighted plus level 7 triple-weighted	Overall: 63 + 77 + 77 + 77 = 294 ÷ 4 = 73.5 rounded up to 74 (first class honours)

Outcome:

The student is awarded a **first class integrated master's degree** as the overall average mark for classification is 74%.

Honours degree with 30-credit sandwich placement

Credits	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
Level 4			
120	0	N/A	120 credits required at level 4 to gain an award. Module marks excluded from classification calculation.
Level 5			
30	Discount	43%	Third class honours
30	X2	67%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	71%	First class honours
30	X2	58%	Lower second (2:2)
Level 5 – placement			
30	X2	62%	Upper second (2:1)
150	**8**	**516**	
Level 6			
30	X2	63%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X1 (discount 15 credits)	40%	Third class honours **capped after reassessment*
30	X2	73%	First class honours
30	X2	79%	First class honours
120	**7**	**470**	
390			

How the classification is calculated:

Criteria	Average mark for classification calculation
1) Best 120 credits of the 150 studied at level 5, single-weighted, and the:	Level 5: 67 + 67 + 71 + 71 + 58 + 58 + 62 + 62 = 516 ÷ 8 = 64.5, rounded up to 65 (upper second (2:1))
2) Best 105 credits of the 120 studied at Level 6, triple-weighted	Level 6: 63 + 63 + 40 + 73 + 73 + 79 + 68 = 470 ÷ 7 = 67.1, rounded down to 67 (upper second (2:1)
Level 5 single-weighted plus level 6 triple-weighted	Overall: 65 + 67 + 67 + 67 = 266 ÷ 4 = 66.5, rounded up to 67 (upper second (2:1)

Outcome:

The student is awarded an **upper second (2:1) honours degree** (with placement) as the overall average mark for classification is 67%.

Honours degree

Credits	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
Level 4			
120	0	N/A	120 credits required at level 4 to gain an award. Module marks excluded from classification calculation.
Level 5			
30	X2	75%	First class honours
30	X2	69%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	84%	First class honours
30	X1 (discount 15 credits)	40%	Third class honours **capped after reassessment*
120	**7**	**496**	
Level 6			
30	X2	73%	First class honours
30	X2	68%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X1 (discount 15 credits)	55%	Lower second (2:2)
30	X2	70%	First class honours
120	**7**	**477**	
360			

How the classification is calculated:

Criteria	Average mark for classification calculation
1) Best 105 credits of the 120 studied at level 5, single-weighted, and the:	Level 5: 75 + 75 + 69 + 69 + 84 + 84 + 40 = 496 ÷ 7 = 70.8, rounded up to 71 (first class honours)
2) Best 105 credits of the 120 studied at Level 6, triple-weighted	Level 6: 73 + 73 + 68 + 68 + 55 + 70 + 70 = 477 ÷ 7 = 68.1 rounded down to 68 (upper second (2:1))
Level 5 single-weighted plus level 6 triple-	Overall: 71 + 68 + 68 + 68 = 275 ÷ 4 = 68.7,

weighted	rounded up to 69 (upper second (2:1))

Consideration band	2:2	2:1	First
Is the overall average mark for classification within two per cent of the next classification band? If so, which classification band does …			
1) The level 6 average mark across the 120 credits sit in? (Level average calculation across all 120 credits studied: 73 + 73 + 68 + 68 + 55 + 55 + 70 + 70 = 532 ÷ 8 = 66.5 rounded up to 67 (upper second (2:1)); or		X	
2) At least 50 per cent of the 120 level 6 credits sit in?			X

Outcome:

Although the overall average mark for classification is 69% (upper second (2:1)), the student is awarded a **first class honours degree**. This is because they fall into the consideration band and have more than 50 per cent of the 120 level 6 credits in a higher band.

Honours degree – with compensation

Credits	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
Level 4			
120	0	N/A	120 credits required at level 4 to gain an award. Module marks excluded from classification calculation.
Level 5			
30	X2	62%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	52%	Lower second (2:2)
30	X2	55%	Lower second (2:2)
30	X1 (discount 15 credits)	34%*	Fail **compensated*
120	**7**	**372**	
Level 6			
30	X2	61%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	68%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X1 (discount 15	55%	Lower second (2:2)

	credits)		
30	X2	67%	Upper second (2:1)
120	**7**	**447**	
360			

How the classification is calculated:

Criteria	**Average mark for classification calculation**
1) Best 105 credits of the 120 studied at level 5, single-weighted, and the:	Level 5: 62 + 62 + 52 + 52 + 55 + 55 + 34 (exclude 34) = 372 ÷ 7 = 53.1, rounded down to 53
2) Best 105 credits of the 120 studied at Level 6, triple-weighted	Level 6: 61 + 61 + 68 + 68 + 55 (exclude 55) + 67 + 67 = 447 ÷ 7 = 63.8, rounded up to 64
Level 5 single-weighted plus level 6 triple-weighted	Overall: 53 + 64 + 64 + 64 = 245 ÷ 4 = 61.2, rounded down to 61 (upper second (2:1)

Outcome:

The student is awarded an upper second (2:1) honours degree award as the overall average mark for classification is 61% (upper second (2:1)).

Honours degree – direct entrant into level 6

Credits	**Counts towards classification**	**Module mark**	**Classification banding**
Level 4			
120	0	N/A	120 credits granted under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
Level 5			
120	0	N/A	120 credits granted under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
Level 6			
30	X2	68%	Upper second (2:1)
30	X2	49%	Third class honours
30	X1 (discount 15 credits)	47%	Third class honours
30	X2	63%	Upper second (2:1)

120	**7**	**407**
360		

How the classification is calculated:

Criteria	Average mark for classification calculation
1) Best 105 credits of the 120 studied at level 6	Level 6/overall: 68 + 68 + 49 + 49 + 47 + 63 + 63 = 407 ÷ 7 = 58.1, rounded down to 58 (lower second (2:2))

Consideration band	2:2	2:1	First
Is the overall average mark for classification within two per cent of the next classification band? If so, which classification band does …			
1) The level 6 average mark across the 120 credits sit in? (Level average calculation across all 120 credits studied: 68 + 68 + 49 + 49 + 47 + 47 + 63 + 63 = 454 ÷ 8 = 56.7, rounded down to 57 (lower second (2:2)); or	X		
2) At least 50 per cent of the 120 level 6 credits sit in?		X	

Outcome:

Although the overall average mark for classification is 58% (lower second (2:2)), the student is awarded an upper second (2:1) honours degree. This is because they fall into the consideration band and have at least 50 per cent of the 120 level 6 credits in a higher classification band.

Foundation degree (Fd) / Higher National Diploma (HND)

Credits	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
Level 4			
120	0	N/A	120 credits required at level 4 to gain an award. Module marks excluded from classification calculation.
Level 5			
30	X2	63%	Merit
30	X2	67%	Merit
30	X2	55%	Pass
30	X2	70%	Distinction

120	**8**	**510**	
240			Overall average mark for classification calculation: 63 + 63 + 67 + 67 + 55 + 55 + 70 + 70 = 510 ÷ 8 = 63.7, rounded up to 64 (merit)

Outcome:

The student is awarded a foundation degree (Fd)/Higher National Diploma (HND) with merit as the overall average mark for classification is at merit level.

Higher National Certificate (HNC)

Credits	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
Level 4			
30	X2	55%	Pass
30	X2	61%	Merit
30	X2	48%	Pass
15	X1	53%	Pass
15	X1	45%	Pass
120	**8**	**426**	Overall average mark for classification calculation: 55 + 55 + 61 + 61 + 48 + 48 + 53 + 45 = 426 ÷ 8 = 53.2, rounded down to 53 (pass)

Outcome:

The student is awarded a Higher National Certificate (HNC) pass as the overall average mark for classification is at pass level.

University Certificate of Professional Development (UCPD)

Credits	Counts towards classification	Module mark	Classification banding
Level 5			
30	X2	71%	Distinction
30	X2	65%	Merit
60	**4**	**272**	Overall average mark for classification calculation: 71 + 71 + 65 + 65 = 272 ÷ 4 = 68 (merit)

Outcome:

The student is awarded a University Certificate of Professional Development (UCPD) with merit as the overall average mark for classification is at merit level.